

RESULTS OF FORCING DOWN THE PRICE OF GAS IN LONDON.—We have ever had an unlimited faith, as our readers know, in the expansive force of gas. The expansion shows itself whenever and wherever the high-pressure is removed; but it is this tendency to expansion itself which compels the removal of the self-stultifying stopper by means of which the companies have hitherto kept down that wonderful expansion; for it is mainly by the force of opinion and desire expressed by those who are anxious and determined to extend its uses that the companies have been compelled to lower their prices, and thus to extend their own business and increase the aggregate of their own profit. The lowering of prices, as we have proved and pointed out, has uniformly led to the raising of profits, and so it will be for years to come. As to the extension of demand for gas in the City, it now appears, on the authority of *The Globe* newspaper, that "since the reduction of price, the consumption of gas has so greatly increased that it will be sufficient to occupy both lots of works and pipes,"—those of the old companies as well as those of the new. Not a doubt of it, and all will be compelled to extend their pipes too ere long. This result we long since anticipated, and the record of the fact only affords another proof of the soundness of those principles by which we were actuated, for behoof of all, in instructing public opinion on this subject. The companies are now finding out, we hope, who were their real friends and who their foes.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR THE POOR.—A preliminary meeting has been held at Captain Gladstone's, R.N., Eaton-square, to consider a scheme by Viscount Ingestrie, for converting large private houses into improved dwellings for the poor. The following gentlemen were present, Capt. Gladstone, R.N. in the chair:—Viscount Ingestrie, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, bart., Rev. Henry Howarth, B.D. rector of St. George's, Hanover-square, Rev. Thomas Beames, preacher of St. James's Church, Piccadilly, and Mr. Hamilton Lindsay. The Marquis of Westminster, Sir Wm. Fraser, Mr. A. B. Hope, and Rev. J. Jackson, rector of St. James's, were unavoidably absent, but their concurrence in the objects of the meeting was announced. It is intended to hold another meeting shortly.

A MONUMENT TO NEWCOMEN.—This proposal has been revived, we hope with some grounds for confidence in a worthy result. Newcomen, at the time he is said to have been struck with the accidental contemplation of the lid of the tea kettle as it danced to its own music while "its steam was up," was a resident of Dartmouth, and the monument is accordingly proposed to be erected there.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—From some experiments made at the Serpentine lately, with Henley's magneto-electric telegraph, it appears that communications can be carried on under water, with wires covered with gutta percha, although a portion of the covering be skinned off, or even the wire broken in two, and the ends some little distance apart. No voltaic batteries, of course, are used in a magneto-electric apparatus.

INTENDED MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.—It is proposed to erect and endow a college for the reception of distressed members of the medical profession and their widows. An engraved view at the head of the prospectus shows a picturesque pile of buildings of the Tudor period.

NEW IRVINGITE OR CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH IN GORDON-SQUARE.—The first stone of this building, for the erection of which we gave the tenders a short time ago, was laid on Monday last. We are told that it will be in the early English style and cruciform, the height of the nave, 120 feet; the total length, 210 feet; the width of nave and aisles, 63 feet; of the transepts, 80 feet. It will have a tower and graduated spire, together of the height of 270 feet, and the whole will be built of Bath stone. To complete the edifice an outlay of 40,000*l.* will be required. It will afford accommodation to upwards of 2,000 persons.

AN OMNIBUS EQUAL TO ITS NAME.—A huge omnibus has been started to run between Glasgow and Paisley which carries fifty-six passengers, and has first, second, and third class compartments. We hope it is not so ugly as the vehicle now running in London called "Franklin's Patent," an agglomeration of "Hansom's," with nothing good-looking about it: in appearance it is a cross between a prison-van and a fire-engine, and that people should be found to exhibit themselves in it (sideways) says something for the bravery of the age.

SALVAGE ON LOST PROPERTY.—Your hints being carefully inserted, they generally bring forth fruit sooner or later. Permit me, then, to suggest, in order to the more frequent restoration of lost property—that an understood salvage shall be awarded to the finder. Property found at sea is properly profitable to the finder: and so should property lost on land be liable to a suitable reward to the restorer.—JOHNNY.

INVENTION IN WORKMEN: IMPORTANCE TO ARCHITECTURE.—Since, therefore, it is important, not only that improvements should continue to be made in materials and processes which are still inadequate to particular objects, but that inventions should start "full armed, from the brain," and resist the most searching ordeal, we regard it of the utmost value, to cultivate that inventive faculty in the workman, already found to so great an extent, and which has been one of the chief incitements to the agitation of the present subject. We look upon the professional architect and the artisan as natural allies. They stand somewhat in the same relative positions as the holder of an entailed estate and his grandson. Highly as we estimate theoretical principles, and their direct application, every architect knows that information of the utmost value lies scattered about in the class of building artisans, and the columns of our weekly contemporary are sufficient evidence of that fact. It is information which can be obtained, in most cases, only during actual contact with building and mechanical operations, and by manual labour. It is the best, and at the same time the only substitute for the test of years. To ourselves, the existence of this knowledge, obtained by observation and experience, gives a high estimate of the importance of the class possessing it; it is a ground not only for respect for that class far higher than is awarded to it by the ignorant, but is connected with the question of the elevation of the social condition of the artisan, in a manner which makes our subject worthy of the particular attention of the benevolent individuals who are working towards that end.—*Architectural Quarterly Review.*

THE TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.—It appears by returns newly printed by order of the Commons, that the area triangulated from 1797 to 1848, amounts to 477,044 square miles, at a cost to the Company of 312,339*l.* being 15*s.* 4*d.* a square mile. The late wars alone have given new kingdoms, with additional surface of no less than 169,827 square miles. The total area of British India, as it now stands, has been estimated at 800,758 square miles, and the native states at 508,442, making a grand total of 1,309,200 square miles. Of the native states, 200,000 square miles have been surveyed, leaving about 308,442, for the most part wild, hilly jungle, to be completed.

STATE OF THE METROPOLIS ROADS.—Several of the tolls have been disposed of, in consequence of the Great Exhibition, at higher prices than before. The entire roads have fetched 59,140*l.*, the amount the previous year being 57,220*l.* The watering in parts is very badly attended to. In Brompton, where we are writing at this moment, the dust is flying in clouds, increased by the heaps of loose stuff, left at the side of the road, over trenches recently made by the water company. To open the windows is scarcely possible. It is a choice between filling your lungs with heated contaminated air or comminuted alex. The trustees of the roads should really inquire into the matter, and have the neglect remedied.

HOW TALENT IS HONOURED IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—There is scarcely a Frenchman of real eminence in poetry, literature, war, science, statesmanship, the arts, medicine, law, or in any other walk of life, who is not honoured with his statue, either in his birthplace, or in the town made his own by adoption. Most of the statues are erected at the expense of the inhabitants of the respective localities; the good people thinking it a bounden duty to render every respect to their illustrious dead. And when they may happen to be too poor to go to that expense, they erect a fountain, or some useful thing, which bears the great man's name. In the small and poor village of Chateaux, near Paris, where Voltaire was born, you see, for example, a small plaster bust of him, in an iron cage, and on the parish pump the words "à Voltaire." And the man who should scoff at this simple tribute to genius would be an ass,—it is all that poor peasants can afford to pay. The names of distinguished men are also frequently given by the French to streets and squares. In Paris alone, Molière, Racine, Corneille, Voltaire, Boileau, Montaigne, and I know not how many others, together with men of science by the hundred, have streets named after them: so have Chateaubriand and Béranger: so have even the English Lord Byron, and the Italian Rossini. The ships in the navy, too, receive also the names of distinguished men, foreign as well as native: there is a man-of-war named after our Newton. Now, look at the land of Shakspeare and Milton, of Bacon and Newton and Locke,—at the land which, in proportion to its population, has produced far more poets, romancers, historians, philosophers, lyricists, inventors, all of undoubted genius, than any other—and say, where are its statues to them?—what honour has it done them?—*Literary Gazette.*

WATER PIPES.—Messrs. Neilson of the Hyde-park Foundry, are at present under contract to supply about 35 miles of cast-iron water-pipes to the Liverpool people. The pipes are 3 feet 10 inches in diameter, the iron of which they are made being 1½ inches thick. Each length measures fully 12 feet, and weighs nearly 4 tons. Upwards of 1,200 have already been delivered and shipped for Liverpool.—*North British Mail.*

ST. MATTHEW'S, WESTMINSTER, erected in Great Peter-street, in the parish of St. John, was on Monday consecrated by the Bishop of London.

TENDERS

Lately sent in for the Oxford Training Schools. Mr. J. Clark, architect.

Lawrence	£15,420
Smith and Appleford	15,250
Tanson	14,675
Kirk	14,650
Right	14,540
Thomas	13,800
Holland	13,420
Myers	12,850

For the Savings' Bank, Chester.

Dean (Leftwich)	£3,913 0 0
Williams (Chirk)	2,608 0 0
Kelley	2,600 0 0
Lockwood	2,580 0 0
Bellin and Williams	2,565 0 0
H. Wiggner	2,550 0 0
J. Bayle and Son	2,545 7 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Russian Houses.—A correspondent asks for "any information as to the construction of Russian houses. I have heard," he adds, "that in that country a great deal of glass is used in their actual construction."

"J. G. H.," "J. C.," "W. B. T.," "P. H. D.," "Habersattel," "Articled Clerk" (Read's Surveyor's Guide), "C. B. A.," "M. P.," "J. L.," "J. H. B.," "H. W. S.," "N. and W.," "J. W.," (next week) "F. L.," "L. B." (There is no prescribed distance. The person building must not injure his neighbour), "Snoo" (We cannot insert trifling communications, simply to advertise their writer).

"Books and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

NOTICE.—All communications respecting advertisements should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor." All other communications should be addressed to the Editor, and not to the Publisher.